

**Joint Meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission
And the Electric Utility Commission
November 2, 2015**

- I. **Roll Call:** Commissioners Steve Fitzhugh, Chris Bradley, Ken Goslant, Dave Maxwell (absent); Town Manager Jeff Schulz; Utility Superintendent Pat Demasi. Steve Fitzhugh called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. **Meeting of the Electric Commission:**

Northfield Membership in Northeast Public Power Association NEPPA. Steve Fitzhugh stated that at the last meeting the Commission tabled the discussion regarding Northfield's membership in NEPPA. Steve and Patrick were unsure why Northfield has not joined NEPPA. Steve checked with other utilities and found that NEPPA is a good resource center and would be helpful in determining the Town's energy use and needs. The annual cost to join NEPPA is \$2,400. Steve added that NEPPA member communities receive significant discounts on worthwhile engineering and training courses. **Motion** by Chris Bradley, second by Ken Goslant, to have Northfield join NEPPA. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Smart Meters. Next, the Commission discussed the implementation of electric smart meters in Northfield and the presentation on smart meters from representatives from Elster. Steve stated that he is researching whether smart meters make good business for Northfield. Steve noted that smart meters have many benefits, such as, providing customers useful information on their electric use, and the utility with information that will improve system efficiency and system maintenance. The Commission agreed to continue to research the implementation of smart meters in Northfield. **Motion** by Chris Bradley, second by Ken Goslant, to table the smart meter discussion. **Motion approved 3-0-0.**

Other Business. Steve Fitzhugh discussed the electric upgrade at Cabot Hosiery stating that Cabot is planning to move to a 24x7 operation starting in Jan 2017; which would cut their peak power requirements - 30% less machines needed to get the same overall output. Currently Cabot has 10% of the required infrastructure to meet 2017 demand, assuming the addition of weekend work. At the end of 2017, they plan to bring another 125hp vacuum unit and 60 more knitting machines online in prep for 2018 demand. In the 4th quarter of 2018 Cabot plans to add another vacuum unit and 60 knitting machines in prep for 2019 demand.

Motion by Chris Bradley to adjourn the Electric Commission, second by Ken Goslant, Motion passed 3-0-0.

Meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission

Budget Discussion: The Sewer and Water Commissioners discussed the water and sewer budgets and the potential impact on the rates from the loss of Comfort Colors. Jeff Schulz stated that water use from Comfort Colors represents approximately 22% of the utility's revenues. The Commissioners stated that the Town should send a letter to the water and sewer customer explaining the impending increase in the rates. The Commissioners asked that Staff provide the Commission with information regarding this issue for the next meeting.

Motion by Steve Fitzhugh, second by Chris Bradley, to adjourn the Water and Sewer Commission. **Motion passed 2-0-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Schulz

Jeff Schulz, Clerk